

## OAFRESS (Organisation d'Afrique francophone pour le Renforcement des Systèmes de Santé et de la Vaccination)

Dakar, Senegal



Applications  
due: April 1

[OAFRESS \(Organisation d'Afrique francophone pour le Renforcement des Systèmes de Santé et de la Vaccination\)](#) is an NGO with the mission of increasing access to healthcare services for all populations in Francophone Africa (especially those living in difficult-to-access regions) through civil society action and coordination. The organization includes 18 member organizations from across the African continent.

Francophone African countries face major challenges in terms of maternal and child health, marked in particular by disparate vaccine coverage within the countries. The issues of equity of access for the most remote populations and the endemic weaknesses of health systems are the key explanatory factors for this situation.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) perform specific functions that can help address these challenges. They are often the sole provider of healthcare in underserved areas and fragile states, and they thus represent an untapped resource.

The need for OAFRESS was established through a regional consultation, organized by GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance) and UNICEF AFRO, in September 2011 in the presence of 25 CSOs from 17 French-speaking African countries. In November 2014, OAFRESS was formally launched with the aim of federating a community of civil society actors from Francophone Africa for coordinated and effective advocacy on access to healthcare.

Learn [about OAFRESS's Regional Coordinator, Claire Sambou](#).

*This Virtual Global Internship is offered through a partnership between UVA's International Studies Office/Global Internships and the Presidential Precinct. The Presidential Precinct has proudly hosted Mandela Washington Fellows in Charlottesville since 2014. Mandela*

*Washington Fellows are accomplished young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa. A fellowship alumna/us will serve as host and mentor of this unique Virtual Global Internship.*

## Description of internship:

OAFRESS (Organisation d'Afrique francophone pour le Renforcement des Systèmes de Santé et de la Vaccination) is seeking UVA interns to assist with communications, social media, and resource mobilization projects related to their public health mission. Interns will work on ongoing projects funded by GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance), PAI (Population Action International), and other agencies to identify regions in need of healthcare access and investment. Other projects also include CSO capacity building, advocacy capacity building, and workshops to share best practices and information.

*What can an intern expect to learn in this internship?:* OAFRESS offers interns the opportunity to be in touch with a civil society network in 18 African countries, in addition to working in a multicultural environment. He/she will learn how CSOs in Francophone Africa are engaged and participate in health system strengthening and immunization, as well as the way they help populations gain access to healthcare services, especially in areas with difficult access (conflict zone, landlocked areas, etc.). He/she will learn challenges that member communities are facing with regards to access to healthcare services, especially in the Covid19 context, and solutions that are being implemented to address challenges. He/She also can improve his/her French writing/speaking skills and learn from our work with partners as Gavi, PAI, Urgent Action Fund, and others.

*How will an intern contribute to this organization's mission?:* Interns will enhance OAFRESS's work by reinforcing its visibility and credibility. By building OAFRESS's institutional capacity, he/she will be helping the organization to leverage additional supports and collaborations to guarantee its sustainability as an organization and the fulfillment of its mission.

## Preferred qualifications:

*\*\*UVA requirement: All candidates must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.\*\**

- OAFRESS requires an intern who is passionate about social media, with strong skills in communication and great motivation to work with civil society actors in Africa on healthcare services.
- An ideal candidate for this position would have some previous knowledge of or be actively learning about health challenges and opportunities in Francophone Africa. Students should be interested in learning as much as they can about the region- its peoples, its cultures, and its particular conditions.
- Candidates must have the strong motivation to work in diverse teams and across language barriers, if necessary, to facilitate projects in an inclusive and cooperative manner.
- Interns must be highly independent and self-motivated so they can successfully complete projects as assigned and as established by themselves.

- Students must be supremely flexible and willing to contribute to the changing needs of the organization in whatever ways are most useful.

#### Language requirements:

- French and English. Advanced to fluent French language skills (speaking/writing/comprehension) is required.